

"Etheldreda House"
ELY.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



To: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

1. STATISTICS: During 1951 the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

a. Ambulances:

Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council. One is for Infectious Diseases and the other for non-infectious diseases.

The St. John Ambulance at Littleport has been also available throughout the year. This Ambulance works under an agency agreement with the County Council. Members of the Littleport Ambulance and Nursing Divisions man and drive this vehicle. Their efforts are very much appreciated in the District, and their record is an excellent one.

b. Nursing and Clinic Arrangements: These are the same as for previous years. The District Nurses continue to maintain their fine record of service.

c. The Isolation Hospital: under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. The District owes much to the Matron Miss A. Pickersgill S.R.N., and her staff, who are untiring in their efforts to maintain an efficient, happy Hospital.

3. WATER:

a. The supply for Ely, including Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow and Chettisham is obtained from two wells and one borehole at the Council's Waterworks at Isleham. The condition of the plant including the pumping and chloramine equipment proved to be satisfactory throughout the year.

The quality and the quantity of the water has also proved satisfactory.

There have been no major breakdowns during the twelve months.

Schemes for increased water storage, new 12" mains and possible increase in output from Isleham, have been submitted by the Water Engineer to the Consulting Engineers.

I continue to feel considerable concern about the condition of the 12" pumping main. I have already noted my opinions in my Reports for the year 1937, 1938, 1949 & 1950.

WATER (Contd.).

- b. i. Four routine Chemical and four bacteriological examinations during the year were made, and all proved satisfactory.
- ii. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- iii. No contamination was discovered during the year and, therefore, no action in respect of this has been necessary.
- iv. 96% of the dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water direct from public water mains.
- 4% of the dwelling houses in the area are supplied by stand-pipe.

It is estimated that the percentage of the population supplied approximates to the figures given above for houses.

4. SEWAGE: There have been no extensions in the District during the year. A new 9" relief sewer has been laid in St. Mary's Street.

Complete schemes for Sewage Disposal Works and the provision of relief and new main Sewers have been prepared by the Engineer and sent to the Consulting Engineers. No decision had been reached by the end of the year.

5. HOUSING:

- a. During this year the following work has been done:-

	<u>HOUSES.</u>
No. 6 Site (Prickwillow)	Completed 16.
Springhead Lane - Bungalows	Work Commenced 10.
West Fen Road	Work Commenced 20.

- b. Inspection of houses under the Public Health Act 1936 & Housing Act 1936, have continued throughout the year, and all complaints of reported nuisances have been investigated and action taken as indicated.

83 preliminary notices and letters were sent to owners, who responded in most cases and abated nuisances without delay.

6 Demolition Orders were made during the year, and 4 houses were made fit for human habitation after formal procedure had been taken. Five informal notices were sent to owners to render houses habitable.

The Sanitary Inspectors have been very active during these twelve months and have done a good job of work.

6. SCHOOLS: To save time and trouble - no comments. But reference can be made to my previous Annual Reports from 1936. Up to the end of the year I have no reasons for changing my opinions about the Ely Schools. Thank heaven, I do not have to attend an Ely School.

7. MILK: Little can be said on this subject as since 1949 the Council has but little control over milk.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

a. 117 notifications of infectious diseases were received. The total was made up as follows:-

Measles	15.
Whooping Cough	74.
Scarlet Fever	2.
Glandular Fever	5.
Pneumonia	17.
Erysipelas	2.
Sonne Dysentery	1.
Infective Hepatitis	1.

Total 117.

b. Disinfection of premises etc., is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also when infection is reported, or requests are received for any special reasons. Clothing and bedding are disinfected at the Isolation Hospital, by arrangement with the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

It is interesting to note that the last established case of Diphtheria was in 1942 and there has been no deaths in Ely from this disease since 1924.

c. Tuberculosis: 9 New Cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustments, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

Respiratory:

Male.	21.
Female.	7.

Non-Respiratory:

6.
8.

Compared with 1950, the figures show an increase of 3 Cases, made up as follows:-

Respiratory:

Male.	3.
Female.	0.

Non-Respiratory:

0.
0.

9. FOOD:

1. a. Food premises have been inspected regularly and an improvement has been noticed since 1950, which is encouraging.
- b. During the year Food Handling Bye-laws were made by the Council,
- c. Notices requesting the public not to bring Dogs into food premises were distributed to all shops, and I am very grateful to the willing co-operation given by the big majority of those in charge of such premises.
- d. I do want to impress on all concerned the supreme importance of personal hygiene: and I would repeat what I wrote last year - "Success can only be obtained by the carefulness, enthusiasm and sense of responsibility amongst those who actually handle food and food stuffs".
- e. A certain amount of food was condemned after voluntary surrender, including a large quantity of tinned ham.

2. ICE CREAM: One shop was registered to sell pre-wrapped ice cream during 1951.

10. MISCELLANEOUS:i. Insect Pest Control:

Disinfestation has been carried out where necessary but there have been few cases requiring remedial measures.

ii. Shops:

Periodical inspections have been carried out under the Shops Act 1950. It must be pointed out, however, that the Local Authorities responsibilities are restricted to sanitary accommodation, temperature and ventilation.

iii. Rodent Control:

The Council has appointed a Rat Catcher to deal with infestation in the district. In the nine months of the year during which infestations have been dealt with, the public generally seem reticent to report infestation although it is a legal obligation to do so.

iv. Smoke Nuisances:

During the year two serious smoke nuisances were dealt with. Co-operation with the respective bodies was effective in abating the nuisances.

v. Moveable Dwellings:

These have continued to create quite a problem especially the agricultural workers, tinkers etc., who appear to be ignorant of the basic qualities of clean living. The ordinary person who uses a caravan because of the present day housing shortage presents little worry. The modern caravans have modern facilities. The only disadvantage being small floor space and confined quarters which is detrimental to health and must lower the physical well being of the residents gradually.

I still feel considerable concern about the first class of caravan dwellers to which reference is made above: and I cannot say that I am satisfied with the position generally.

vi. Factories:

Such Factories as are in the District are inspected periodically and action taken as indicated.

11. PERSONAL:

Once again, I wish to place on record my grateful thanks to my colleague, the Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector & Water Engineer, Mr. A. E. King. He has always given me his willing assistance and co-operation freely during the year.

My other colleague, the additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. Smith, has been of the greatest assistance to me, and has got through a tremendous amount of routine work. I am very grateful to him also.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

18. 6. 52.

(Signed) K. S. Maurice Smith,

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Urban District Council.